

Formerly called the ladies' Hospital Guild, the organization we honor today was formed in 1874 by a group of 20 women. They began by making clothing for the sick children in the hospital. As the needs of the hospital changed, so did the guild. In 1887, the daisy ward, a pediatrics ward, was established in the hospital. Since then, the guild has devoted much of its time and efforts to creating a comfortable environment for the children in this ward. Through the years, the guild has strived to make the lives of the patients and the hospital community a little better.

The guild was incorporated and named after one of the founders and presidents of Christ Hospital, Rev. Richard Mason Abercrombie. As a corporation, the guild is devoted to securing money and supplies for the hospital with special care given to the children's ward, of which Christ Hospital is particularly proud. The funds donated and bequeathed to the guild greatly benefit these children. The monies are used to provide the children with the medical attention needed.

The Guild also provides a number of other valuable services, including a monthly news letter known as the Daisy and a burial fund that is administered by the burial committee. The burial fund provides a final resting place for impoverished patients who have died in the hospital. In addition, the chapel committee, which provides Holy Communion and other religious services, and the sewing committee, which provides made and mended clothing, are the most commonly known features of the guild.

I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in honoring the Abercrombie Guild. The services and help the guild has provided the children and patients of Christ Hospital are truly extraordinary.

#### HONORING GRATIOT PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the men and women of the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church in Port Huron, MI. This Sunday, I and many others from Michigan's Bluewater area will gather at the church to dedicate a marker celebrating the importance of that structure in the history of our community and our State.

The origins of the Gratiot Park United Methodist congregation can be traced back to the time of the construction of Fort Gratiot in 1814, and the early days of the church are tied to the growth of the fort.

Records of the time show that circuit riders regularly traveled through the wilderness to preach at Fort Gratiot. Accounts also indicate that the early congregation survived a devastating cholera outbreak in 1832 that nearly wiped out the entire territory.

In 1859, the Reverend A.E. Ketchum established a Methodist class at the Fort Gratiot Mission. Brothers ventured to remote areas of Michigan seeking new members for the community.

The site of today's Gratiot Park United Methodist Church was first surveyed in 1834, and changed ownership several times before

being purchased in trust for the church in July 1866.

In 1968, the church was formally renamed the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church.

The Bluewater area is far different today than it was in the times of Fort Gratiot. Where once pioneers struggled to settle the land, today Port Huron is a thriving city and a growing center of commerce. But despite decades of change, the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church still stands as a part of our community and part of the lives of our people.

It has seen the deep divisions created by the Civil War and witnessed the inventions of Thomas Edison.

It has stood through the dawn of the Grant Trunk Railroad and the boom of the shipping and lumber industries and the growth of Port Huron.

And through it all, the church and its congregation have stood as a source of strength and fellowship for the people of our area.

Mr. Speaker, the marker that the Michigan Historical Center has affixed to this structure is a fitting tribute to the Gratiot Park United Methodist Church and a source of great pride for the entire Port Huron community.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing this important designation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from rollcall vote 191 due to emergency dental work. Had I been present, I would have voted in the affirmative.

#### SMALL BUSINESS JOB PROTECTION ACT OF 1996

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 22, 1996*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 3448 and to not only lend my support for it, but to also discuss how this legislation is a textbook example of opportunity missed. Mr. Speaker, while this bill makes several important changes to the current law in areas such as pensions, equipment investment, and educational tax-deductions, there are other changes not included which could have made it much better legislation and much better for the American people.

One of the most important issues this bill addresses is that of employee pensions. Under this legislation, employees of tax-exempt organizations, will for the first time, be eligible for 401(k) plans. In addition, firms with less than 100 workers would be permitted to set aside pension funds for workers without satisfying many of the complex reporting standards they must now meet for contributions to 401(k) plans. Finally, Mr. Speaker, this bill addresses the needs of union workers such as construction workers who frequently change jobs. This legislation corrects prob-

lems for small businesses and their employees which are long overdue. Now, those who were previously unable to take advantage of retirement options solely due to their occupation can now.

Mr. Speaker, this bill also provides tax incentives for businesses to hire employees on welfare, high-risk youth, qualified veterans or qualified summer youth employees. I have spoken a great deal on this floor about summer jobs and while I am extremely opposed to Republican efforts to eliminate the Summer Jobs Program, I am pleased that this provision was included. I am gratified to see that the majority party recognizes the fact that these populations sometimes need assistance in obtaining work and I believe that the work opportunity tax credit is one more method by which we can give honest people a chance at a job.

While these are good initiatives, this bill does not go far enough. The legislation will allow individuals to deduct up to \$5,250 per year for employer-provided educational assistance for undergraduate tuition, but what about graduate education? Do not people who pursue advanced degrees deserve the same opportunity? This indeed seems like a case of education bigotry. During committee markup of this bill, my Democratic colleague, Mr. LEVIN tried to address this issue with an amendment to include graduate education. After initially agreeing to the amendment, the Republican Members changed their vote to defeat it.

Also missing from this bill are pension provisions contained within the Gephardt-Daschle proposal which would improve the bill even further by allowing penalty-free IRA withdrawals for education and training, first home purchases, major medical expenses, and during long-term unemployment.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is good and I support it, but it could be and deserves to be better than it is.

#### SMALL BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 23, 1996*

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of this body and the nation an individual who has truly made a difference in his local area and who, along the way, has helped so many others. Mr. Paul R. Argall, President of PCBM Management Company, Inc., in Ishpeming, Michigan began with a dream, a goal, an idea and has molded that into one of the most successful business operations in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. For his efforts, Mr. Argall has been named Michigan Small Business Person of the Year by the United States Small Business Administration, a honor well deserved.

Mr. Argall first distinguished himself as a Certified Public Accountant, opening his own firm in 1978. Realizing that his home town of Ishpeming, like other small communities in the Upper Peninsula, was on an economic decline, Paul moved forward in 1984 by establishing PCBM Management Company that formed the foundation for a dream that he believed would not just provide jobs for so many local residents, but would be the primary source of economic development for the area.